

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 13, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 13, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

The Lord is my light and my salvation whom should I fear!

Lord God, Your light has come into this world. Your revelation guides this Nation still.

In the very beginning You separated out the light from the darkness. Perhaps this is exactly what You want us to do on this new day.

Remove from us the darkness of fear and fantasy, projection and prejudice, blinding anger, and confusion. Help us to be realistic and unafraid to walk in the light of day, returning to ordinary tasks which make this Nation vibrant and strong.

As so many dead are laid to rest we must memorialize their ordinary innocence, their daily hopes and responsibilities as well as their love. Assist with Your grace the noble task of grieving families, medical, counseling and search teams in their untiring work of compassion.

May prayer in Your spirit enlighten the Members of this Congress so they may be sound and unified in purpose. Make them Your instruments to stabilize this Nation and bring about lasting peace so all Americans here and abroad, with our friends around the world, may live in the freedom of expression of faith, hope and love, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. McNULTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. McNULTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ON RECENT U.S. TRAGEDY

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is a new day and a new dawn in America, and how lucky I am to be an American citizen.

Watching the TV in the morning is very, very difficult because we see families looking for loved ones and we see people searching for answers and clues to this devastating tragedy.

Whoever did this may have taken a bite out of the big apple, but they are rotten to the core for inflicting the damage on innocent people.

We will see the opening, hopefully soon, of the financial markets, and we pray people are not only sensible but reasonable and understand that there should be no egregious trading on the backs of this disaster.

When the airlines open today, we ask for calm and reasonableness as people approach those who work in our airports.

We also ask each and every citizen living in communities throughout this country to take a moment to salute the police officers, the firefighters, the military personnel who don the uniforms of service to this country, to this Nation, and to our communities to protect and provide for us. Oftentimes we are not thankful enough for those who risk their lives because we are simply usually inconvenienced at the red or blue lights we see in our rear-view mirrors. We do not thank them enough until we need them, until we call 911, and then we desperately ask for their help. Society requires us to be bigger and better than that.

I hear some of our Members complaining about not being briefed enough, not being informed enough about what has happened. I do not want a briefing, I say to my colleagues. I want those people who need to pursue this tragedy with vigor to not inter-

rupt their investigation to brief us now. We have a chance to be Monday morning quarterbacks, we have a chance to review what has happened, but the most important thing now is answers for families and answers to who created this problem and staying resolved as a Nation that we are bigger and better than they are.

Let us not target citizens needlessly who may be related by ethnicity or religion. Let us focus on those perpetrators who inflicted this damage and this devastation to our country. We are a bigger and better place than anywhere else in the world. And in these critical hours, it is more important than ever to prove it, to show the world who we are as people, and to make certain while we talk about acts of war and treason and treachery that we focus our full, complete attention on those who inflicted this pain and damage.

We are a proud Nation and we are great Americans, and in this hour of need let us rise above the din of acrimony and pray to the Lord for strength and make certain that in this hour we help our fellow man more than ever before.

INTELLIGENCE NETWORK A WASTE OF CONGRESS' FUNDING

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the Berlin Wall, the Soviet Union, the invasion of Kuwait, the Oklahoma City bombing, Pan Am 103, our World Trade Center, two times, now the Pentagon, and on and on. Let us tell it like it is: America gives \$60 billion a year to the FBI and CIA for intelligence, and the truth is we learned of every one of these tragedies from Fox News and CNN.

Tell me, after all these years, you mean to tell me our intelligence network cannot locate and infiltrate Osama bin Laden's organization? Tell me, Congress, when are we going to tell Afghanistan, when are we going to tell Iran that if they are housing bin Laden we will declare war against them?

The truth is we have an intelligence network that is so dumb they could throw themselves at the ground and miss, and Congress keeps throwing money down a black hole.

I yield back the fact that this is another tragedy that could have been prevented, that everybody knew was coming, and it will not be the last.